



Warm-Up

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Food on the *Mayflower*

On September 6, 1620, a group of 102 passengers, including the Pilgrims and a few other families, set out from England to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They sailed on a crowded wooden ship called the *Mayflower*. The voyage took sixty-six days to reach the shore of what is now Massachusetts. The passengers slept and ate while crowded together in the main cabin. They rarely washed their hands and never bathed or changed their clothes. Their hair and clothes were covered with lice, fleas, and roaches. They also brought along farm animals, which added to the smell and filth of the voyage.

The travelers ate moldy green cheese, dried peas, salty beef, and dried fish. They fought to keep the mice and rats on the ship away

from these foods. They sucked on rock-hard biscuits to make them soft enough to swallow. The biscuits often had tunnels in them made by maggots. The voyagers also ate dried vegetables, such as turnips, parsnips, onions, and cabbages. One of their favorite foods was dried ox tongue.

The travelers used some spices, such as ginger and cloves, to cover up the taste of spoiled food. To overcome the salty taste, they drank beer, wine, and ale. Even the children drank these! Clean, fresh water was seldom available. On a few rare occasions, passengers were able to use fireboxes to make soup, dumplings, and oatmeal. Life aboard the *Mayflower* was no “picnic,” but all hoped for a better life in the new world.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which of these was *not* a problem faced by the voyagers on the *Mayflower*?
  - The food was very salty and often spoiled.
  - The rats and insects got into their food.
  - They didn't have much fresh water.
  - They didn't have spices to season their food.
- Where might the passengers have found fresh water?
  - in barrels on the ship
  - from rain falling on the ship during storms
  - from the Atlantic Ocean
  - in a refrigerator
- What is the main idea of the passage?
  - The *Mayflower* passengers had a good trip to the new world.
  - The food on the *Mayflower* was not very pleasant to eat, but there was enough to survive on.
  - The *Mayflower* was a pleasure cruise for rich travelers.
  - There were 102 passengers.
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about the children on the *Mayflower*?
  - They made many sacrifices during the voyage.
  - They were spoiled by their parents.
  - They were better fed than adults.
  - They were treated to tasty foods.



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Warm-Up

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Library at Alexandria

The Library at Alexandria was founded by the rulers of Egypt. This was hundreds of years before the time of Christ. The library was the brain center of the ancient world. It held more written material than any other place on Earth at that time. Books were in the form of handwritten, rolled-up scrolls. Over the centuries, the rulers had copied, stolen, borrowed, and paid vast sums of money for these books. They had been collected throughout the world. These included the works of many different people and stories from many religions.

These handwritten works were very valuable and very expensive. More than half a million of these scrolls were stored in the library. These included writings in many languages.

But this library was not just a library. It was also a museum and learning center where many discoveries were made. In addition, it was a university where scholars from all over the world came to study. Many great thinkers, writers, and teachers studied there. The greatest woman teacher in the world at that time taught at the library.

Alexandria was the home of the library. It was a very active center of business and trade. People from many lands and cultures lived in this community. Unfortunately, the great library was damaged by mobs at different times. It was burned several times and finally left in ruins.

## Check Your Understanding

- What other functions were also served by the Library of Alexandria?
  - museum
  - marketplace
  - university
  - both a and c
- From the context of the passage, what can you conclude about scrolls?
  - They were expensive.
  - Scrolls were written in many languages.
  - They came from many cultures.
  - all of the above
- Books in the library collection were published in the form of
  - flat pages.
  - rolled-up, handwritten scrolls.
  - CDs.
  - electronic books.
- What happened to the library?
  - It was burned several times.
  - It ran out of books.
  - The city closed the library.
  - both a and c



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